

Amendments to the Claims:

- Claim 1 (Original) An ink-jet printing apparatus, comprising:
 at least one printhead portion including an underprinting fixer fluid
 comprising at least one cationic component and at least one printhead portion
 5 including an ink composition comprising at least one anionic component;
 wherein, when the ink composition is printed on a medium over the fixer fluid
 printed on the medium, the ink composition and fixer fluid together form an
 amorphous viscous fluid, the viscous fluid having a viscosity greater than the
 ink composition.
- 10 Claim 2 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the anionic compo-
 nent comprises at least one anionic binder.
- Claim 3 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the at least one
 anionic binder comprises polymers having at least one complexing group.
- 15 Claim 4 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the at least one
 complexing group is selected from the group consisting of Ethylene Diamine
 Tetraacetic Acid, Acetyl Acetonate Maleic Anhydride, an Acrylate and combi-
 nations thereof..
- Claim 5 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 3, wherein the polymers
 comprise styrene.
- 20 Claim 6 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the anionic binder com-
 prises hydrolyzed styrene maleic anhydride.
- Claim 7 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the anionic compo-
 nent comprises dye having anionic functional groups.
- Claim 8 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein the dyes having ani-
 25 onic functional groups are selected from the group consisting of sulfonated
 dyes with non-polar groups, dyes with protonatable groups, dyes with car-
 boxylate groups and dyes with phosphonate groups.
- Claim 9 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the ink composition
 further comprises low-molecular weight hydrophilic compounds.
- 30 Claim 10 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 9, wherein the low-molecular
 weight hydrophilic compounds are selected from the group consisting of inor-
 ganic salts and lower alcohols.

Claim 11 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the at least one cationic component comprises cationic polymers.

Claim 12 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the cationic polymers are polyelectrolytes selected from the group consisting of $R_1R_2R_3R_4N^+$;

5 $R_1R_2R_3R_4P^+$ and $R_1R_2R_3R_4As^+$, where R can be H, alkyl or other organic substituent.

Claim 13 (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the polyelectrolytes comprise branched or linear polymer chains.

Claim 14 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 11, wherein the cationic polymers
10 are in solution with non-polymeric cations selected from the group consisting of calcium ions, aluminum ions, barium ions, strontium ions, zinc ions, magnesium ions and titanium ions.

Claim 15 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 12, wherein the cationic polymers are tetrasubstituted ammonium salts.

15 Claim 16 (Original) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein the at least one cationic component comprises non-polymeric cations selected from the group consisting of calcium ions, aluminum ions, barium ions, strontium ions, zinc ions, magnesium ions and titanium ions.

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Claims 17-33 (Canceled)

Claim 34 (Original) A method of ink-jet printing, the method comprising the
25 steps of:

- a) ejecting at a location on a medium an underprinting fixer fluid comprising at least one cationic component ;
- b) ejecting at the location on the medium an ink composition comprising at least one anionic component ;

30 wherein the ink composition and the fixer fluid together form an amorphous viscous fluid, the viscous fluid having a viscosity greater than the ink composition.

Claim 35 (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the anionic component comprises at least one anionic binder.

Claim 36 (Original) The method of Claim 35, wherein the at least one anionic binder comprises polymers having at least one complexing group.

5 Claim 37 (Original) The method of Claim 36, wherein the at least one complexing group is selected from the group consisting of Ethylene Diamine Tetraacetic Acid, Acetyl Acetate, Maleic Anhydride, Acrylate and combinations thereof.

10 Claim 38 (Original) The method of Claim 36, wherein the [branched] polymers comprise styrene.

Claim 39 (Original) The method of claim 37, wherein the anionic binder comprises hydrolyzed styrene maleic anhydride.

Claim 40 (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the at least one anionic component comprises dye having anionic functional groups.

15 Claim 41 (Original) The method of Claim 40, wherein the dyes having anionic functional groups are selected from the group consisting of sulfonated dyes with non-polar groups, dyes with protonatable groups, dyes with carboxylate groups and dyes with phosphonate groups.

20 Claim 42 (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the ink composition further comprises low-molecular weight hydrophilic compounds.

Claim 43 (Original) The method of Claim 42, wherein the low-molecular weight hydrophilic compounds are selected from the group consisting of inorganic salts and lower alcohols.

25 Claim 44 (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the at least one cationic component comprises cationic polymers.

Claim 45 (Original) The method of Claim 44, wherein the cationic polymers are polyelectrolytes selected from the group consisting of $R_1R_2R_3R_4N^+$; $R_1R_2R_3R_4P^+$ and $R_1R_2R_3R_4As^+$, where R can be H, alkyl or other organic substituent.

30 Claim 46 (Original) The method of Claim 45, wherein the polyelectrolytes comprise branched polymer chains.

Claim 47 (Original) The method of Claim 44, wherein the cationic polymers are in solution with non-polymeric cations selected from the group consisting

of calcium ions, aluminum ions, barium ions, strontium ions, zinc ions, magnesium ions and titanium ions.

Claim 48 (Original) The method of Claim 45, wherein the cationic polymers are tetrasubstituted ammonium salts.

- 5 Claim 49 (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the at least one cationic component comprises non-polymeric cations selected from the group consisting of calcium ions, aluminum ions, barium ions, strontium ions, zinc ions, magnesium ions and titanium ions.

- 10 Claims 50-57 (Canceled)

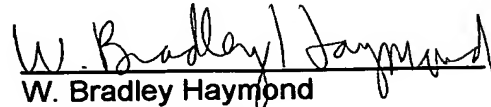
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Respectfully submitted,

Lee

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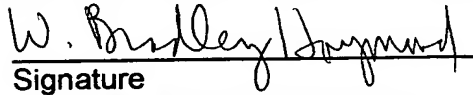
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